

## Crimes of yesteryears reported Details sometimes lacking

How crime reporting has changed over the years is nicely illustrated by a couple of newspaper clippings included in this issue of DD. The first, an extremely enigmatic account from 1877, comes to us via the sharp eyes of P. C. Alger, Derry, NH. She found this Dunham reference in the MADISON (NY?) OBSERVER, date of Dec. 19, 1877:

THE COUNTY COURT.—The December term of the County Court and Court of Sessions is now in the third week of its sitting, notwithstanding holiday work. Last week Monday the criminal business was taken up and the Court is yet engaged in disposing of it. The trial of young Dunham occupied some four days of last week, and brought all Merrillville to the county seat. The trial of Elwood, for attempting to burn the barn of J. M. Wilson, Esq., of Brookbridge, occupied considerable time, and resulted in a verdict of guilty yesterday afternoon. The Court then entered upon the trial of Ambrose Lipe, for a deadly assault upon Nancy Morey, at Onida, last summer.— This case is on trial as we go to press. The term will probably extend through this week, and at its close the prisoners found guilty will receive their sentence.

It seems that none of the usual journalistic questions (Who? What? Where? When? How? & Why?) are satisfied by the article. WHO was "Young Dunham"? The omission of his 1st name cannot have been an attempt (as might be done today) to mask his identity because of his tender years; they DID report his surname. WHAT had he done that brought about his appearance before the County Court? It must have been considered juicy, outrageous, or both, to have brought an entire town (even a small one!) into the county seat (Wampsville?) to attend the trial. The paper does report that the trial lasted 4 days, but it doesn't even say what the outcome was. Amazing!! It is just possible that a more fulsome account of the same trial would have been

reported elsewhere in this paper, as we note, in the very next column, there was a brief article relating further particulars of the case against James Elwood (mentioned here following the report on the Dunham case). Would a second look at this paper (or the issue preceeding it) provide more detail as to just which Dunham this was, how "young" he was, what he had been accused of, & whether or not he was found guilty? If more can be learned about this matter, DD would like to know. Page 2 is devoted to a partial report of a more recent crime in a HARTFORD (CT) POST, Mar. 31, 1914 front page story, complete with drawings of the principals (the "No cameras in court" ruling wasn't even challenged then). Chauncey Hovey, the extortionist (We dispute the POST's choice of the word BLACKMAILER) called himself "Flying Arrow" when he tried to shake down Sylvester C. Dunham (1846-1915)(9) (Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Jonathan L. 8), who was the 2nd president of the Travelers Insurance Co. Though we don't have the complete article, it is clear that a touch of sensationalism had crept into the 1914 reporting. It concerned a threat to a prominent citizen, a desperate criminal, & effective police work; the paper was milking the story for all it was worth! Detective Sgt. Melburger is resolute, but Chauncey Hovey hardly looks like a Flying Arrow, does he? Of course, these clippings do more than reflect the differences in crime reporting of these eras -- which we can also compare with today's approach. They have (to p. 3)



# Hartford Post

Time—6:43 p. m.

TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1914

## THE WEATHER FORECAST FOR HARTFORD:

Fair tonight and Wednesday. Not much change in temperature.

16 PAGES—TWO CENTS

### 3 FIGURES IN POLICE COURT AS WOULD-BE BLACKMAILER IS ARRAIGNED



## CHAUNCEY HOVEY...



## DONALD DUNHAM



## DETECTIVE SERGT. LEWIS G. MELBERGER



CLIFFORD, NIGHT POLICE COURT

## 'FLYING ARROW' DEMAND \$5,000 OF S. C. DUNHAM; SLEUTH SHOOT

Chauncey Hovey, of Springfield, Out of Work and Despondent Makes Desperate Effort To Blackmail Travelers Head

SAYS HE WANTS MONEY TO EMIGRATE WEST

"Plant" Fixed At Restaurant Named As Rendezvous While Detectives Wait—Man Breaks Away As Sergeant Melberger Grabs Him

HUNDREDS SEE CHASE; NONE WILLING TO HELP

Fugitive, At Bay, Flashes Empty Revolver As Policeman Fires—Beaten Down With Clubbed Pistol—Fierce Scuffle

ARRAIGNED IN COURT; CASE IS PUT OVER

Displaying no outward manifestations of emotion, his whole appearance denoting an unnatural calm, Chauncey H. Hovey, of Springfield, Mass., who was arrested yesterday afternoon after a sensational chase for threatening Sylvester C. Dunham, president of the Travelers Insurance company, with death unless he sent Hovey \$5,000 in cash, faced Judge Frederick G. Eberle in police court this morning and quietly pleaded "guilty" to the charges of carrying concealed weapons and attempted blackmail.

Hovey's arrest resulted yesterday after a thrilling chase through Market street when Detective Sergeant Lewis G. Melberger fired two revolver shots at him in an endeavor to bring him to a halt. Hovey's capture was not accomplished until after



CRIMES OF YESTERYEARS (from p. 1) a bit to say about changes in the criminal justice system, too. Earlier policing agencies seemed very efficient in catching the criminals & in meting out the justice. Naturally, they were much better able to do so when the instances of crime were relatively rare. NOTE: Why the POST used the drawing of Donald Dunham rather than one of his father, Sylvester C. Dunham, isn't clear. Perhaps S. C.'s picture appeared in the part of the page that we don't have. This piece of family memorabilia has been in the archive for so long that the name of the provider has been forgotten. (Sorry.)

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WE'RE DELIGHTED TO HAVE this contemporary photo of the family of William Beatty Donham & Gladys (Howe) Donham of Houston, TX. To avoid possibilities of a mixup, we'll use Gladys' own explanation of who is where. William Beatty Donham is a descendant of the line of Jonathan Donham from Ireland. This line was organized in genealogical form in 1913 by Thomas J. Donham (July 1991 DD), its origins being surrounded



by even more mystifying mists than is the case with most lines. (This involved the 2 brothers who quarreled, changed the spellings of their names so they would be different, & separated, the one going north & the other going south. First name of neither brother is now known.)

#### THE DONHAM'S OF TEXAS.

1st row half face. Robert Michael Donham. son of Wm B and Gladys M Donham. We call him Michael.  
Christopher Richard Kerr, son of Deborah D Donham Kerr  
2nd row. Blonde boy. Michael Andrew Kerr son of Deborah.  
Gladys M Howe Donham holding Courtney Michelle Donham Wilkerson  
Far left in white; Deborah Denise Donham Kerr. My daughter,  
Arlene (Sophie) Donham. Michael's Wife. Girl in white/ Channelle Donham, Next to her Dustin Troy Donham/ children of Micheal & Sophie Donham. Tina Michelle Donham Wilkerson. Daughter of my son Micheal & I wife Dianne. Mother of Courtney.  
Lady at far right/ Vivien Dora Donham. Sister of my husband Wm B Donham  
Face between Sophie & Channelle. James Wilkerson, Tina's Husband. Courtney's father  
Tall man at back; William Beatty Donham; Husband to me. Gladys.  
Father to Robert (Michael) Donham. and Deborah Donham Kerr  
Wm B Donham II (Billy) not home for Xmas;  
Brother to Vivien Dora Donham;





IN THE JANUARY '94 DD we published an account from the HISTORY OF EATON COUNTY (MI), which was sent in by Pat Dunham of Fortuna, CA. The article pertained to Charles F. Dunham (1858-1943)(8)(Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Micaiah 3, Micaiah 4, David 5, Aaron 6, John M. 7). Pat also sent this interesting family photo of Charles F. & his 8 siblings. The names don't correspond exactly with those recorded in the Eaton Co. history, but this is how they are identified: SEATED (1 to r): James W., John B., George B., Elmer ((Silas F.?)), & Charles F. STANDING: Carrie ((Caroline)), Mary ((Alinda?)), Minnie ((Julia M. ?)), & Rose ((Rozella J.)). Perhaps the HISTORY was published about 1900; by the time it came out, Alinda ((Mary?)), then Mrs. Benjamin Reader, had died, & even young Rozella was married & was Mrs. William Gardiner.

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DUNHAM DISPATCH  
Mrs. Phyllis S. Kitson, Ed.  
711 Kensington Avenue  
Flint, Michigan 48503



# Augusta Emmons, Oldest Theatre Operator in New England, Dies May 21

Mrs. Augusta L. Emmons, 87, died at Copley Hospital Tuesday morning, May 21, following an earlier stroke.

She was born in Morrisville on Dec. 21, 1875, the daughter of Edward J. and Sophia (Burke) Dunham. In 1896 Gussie, as she was known by family and friends, married Leon C. Emmons.

Until the death of her husband in 1930, they built and operated the Bijou Theatre. Following this Mrs. Emmons and her late son Lynwood continued the business. Her entire life has been spent in the theatre, bringing enjoyment and entertainment to many. Mrs. Emmons was the oldest independent theatre exhibitor in New England, operating the business for 61 years.

They had 6 children, 2 sons died in infancy and one, Lynwood, in 1959. Two surviving sons, Edward and Elwood, and one daughter, Mrs. Katrine P. Melvin, reside in Morrisville. She has 14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Emmons was a member of the Universalist Church, past State President of the Sons of Union Veterans Auxillary, past president of the Morrisville Womens' Relief Corps and a member of the Ladies Sewing Circle of the Universalist Church.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon in the Universalist Church. The Rev. Frank Stockwell will officiate.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery. Friends may call at the Emmons house on Park Street, until the hour of the funeral.

The White Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

RIGHT: From Sophie Dunham Moore's JACOB DUNHAM GENEALOGY we have this photo of Jacob Dunham himself. Jacob, who belonged to the 6th generation in America, had this ancestral line: Deacon John 1, Rev. Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Jacob 4, Ebenezer 5. Jacob's wife was Catherine Shew. They moved from Mayfield, NY to Michigan about 1835 & settled in Highland. They had a family of 7 children.

FROM MRS. ARTHUR (Joan) Dunham, Gainesville, FL, we have this May 23, 1963 obituary from the Morrisville, VT NEWS-CITIZEN. It concerns Augusta (Dunham) Emmons (1875-1963)(4) (Edwin 1, John E. 2, Edward J. 3). Augusta was the first cousin of Arthur Dunham's grandfather, & she appears to have been a very active & interesting woman. The line of Arthur Dunham (6th generation) is: Edwin 1, John E. 2, Guy B. 3, George E. 4, A. Guy 5. John E. (2) was born in Charlestown, MA in 1803, the son of Edwin & Sally (?) Dunham. We wonder if Charlestown records might reveal the date of death of Edwin Dunham & anything further about him. More recent records for this family are so very well documented, & it is too bad that the line has to stop so abruptly with Edwin. Another slight possibility is that some of Augusta's descendants (mentioned in the obituary) might have some vital piece of information that could unlock the mystery.



JACOB DUNHAM  
(1788--1881)  
Pioneer settler in Michigan.